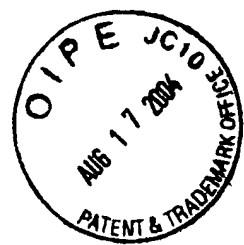


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Roger S. Wilcox et al

Title: Tracking telescoping outrigger

Application number: 10/620011

Filed: 07/15/2003

Art unit: 3617

Examiner: S. P. Avila

Conf. No. 8605

Attorney docket no. 9402-20002

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed 05/19/2004 applicant has the following comments.

The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 USC Section 103 as unpatentable over Slatter (5,921,196) in view of Ko (6006477) on the grounds of obviousness.

The Examiner admits that Slatter does not disclose a sleeve, groove and protrusion system for preventing rotation of the telescoping tubes of the outrigger. He states that Ko teaches the "sleeve 3a ... (note Figure 1, for example) for preventing rotation of the tubes... ."

The present invention claims: An outrigger comprising a plurality of telescoping tubes capable of being retracted and extended with respect to one another, and further comprising at least one outer tube and one inner tube;

a sleeve juxtaposed between the inner and outer tubes; said sleeve having a first longitudinally extending tracking means thereon;

said tubes having second longitudinal tracking means thereon coacting with said first tracking means to permit the tubes to be retracted and extended, while preventing substantial relative rotation therebetween; and locking means to lock the tubes in an extended position.

As shown in the marked up copy of prior art figure 1 of Ko, Ko teaches an outer tube 2a, an inner tube 1a and a retention means 3a. Applicant teaches an outer tube 20, an inner tube 22 (Figure 8) and a retention means 21 (Figure 6). Juxtaposed between the outer tube 20 and the inner tube 22, there is a sleeve 30. No such structure is shown in the Ko reference.

Ko refers to the part 3a as a connector. It is clearly solid as shown not only in Figure 1, but

also by the corresponding part 72 in Figure 5. It is of a smaller diameter than the inner tube 1a, so as to be assembled therewith by fitting inside the inner tube 1a. It is not a sleeve positioned between the inner and outer tubes as called for in pending claim 1 of the present application.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion in Ko to provide a sleeve.

Accordingly, the rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed.

The remaining cited prior art has not been specifically applied. However, when taken either alone or in combination it neither shows nor suggests the present invention.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that the attached documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on August 17, 2004, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EV324019132US, addressed to Mail Stop Non-fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22213-1450.

Frank J. Benasutti
Frank Benasutti 08/17/2004